Import of drugs and drug intermediates

1124. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drugs and drug intermediates are allowed for import by actual users, export houses and tarding houses as per appendix 6, List 8, Part II of the current Import Trade Control Policy;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that all bulk drugs and drug intermediates though being produced in the country, can also be imported;

(c) if so, what is the objective behind such a move and whether such a step is in accordance with the overall policy of Government; and

(d) what are the names of the items deleted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultation with the concerned technical authorities keeping in view country's demand, production, installed capacity, prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time to time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notified by means of Public Notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Criteria for inclusion of bulk drugs under OGL

1125. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria which determine the import of bulk drugs and drug intermediates for inclusion under OGL;

(b) whether the list of import of such items was reviewed after the announcement of the Import Policy;

(c) if so, how many times in a year it was reviewed; and

(d) what are the names of the items deleted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultantion with the concerned technical authorities keepng in view country's demand, production installed capacity; prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time to time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notified by means of Public Notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Libarary.

Proposals for opening of new branches of banks

1126. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals for opening of new bank branches consequent on the announcement of new five year (1985—90) branch licencing policy of the Reserve Bank of India are pending clearance; and

(b) if so, how many such proposals (with the proposed areas) are pending clearance stating the reasons for the delay in taking a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The branch licensing policy for the period 1982—85 expired on 31-3-1985. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the proposals received from the

banks after 31-3-85 for opening bank offices at rural and semi-urban centres under the previous policy were not considered by them for licensing and are not being treated as pending. Under the current branch licensing policy for 1985-90 the task of identifying potential growth centres requiring banking facilities has been entrusted to the Groups set up for the purpose by the lead banks. The lists of identified centres are then required to be finalised by the concerned State Government and these have to be forwarded to the RBI for its consideration for issue of licences for opening bank offices in accordance with the branch licensing policy. The process of identification of centres is in various stages of progress in the different States. RBI would consider the lists of identified centres when such lists are forwarded by the State Governments in accordance with the branch licensing policy.

Import of certain drugs under OGL

1127. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banzophenone, Aminophyllina, Acetyle Sulphanyl Chloride, Calcium Citrate, Calcium Gluconate, 16-DPA. DHA Acetate. Dextrose amydrous, Erythromycin ethyl succineate, Estrone, Salbutamol, Frusemide, Hydrogen Peroxide, Mandlelic Acid Netrazepam. Salicylic Acid, Magnesium Carbonate and Mandelamin are allowed for import under Open General Licence as per the Import Policy;

(b) if so, what are the basis on which the import of such drugs and drug intermediates has been allowed;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the above items are produced indigenously and indigenous capacities are lying idle at present;

(d) whether indigenous production and installed capacities are considered before inclusion of items under OGL; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) These drugs are allowed to be imported under OGL by actual users (industrial) only.

(b) to (e) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultation with the concerned technical authorities keeping in view county's demand, production, installed capacity, prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notifed by means of public notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Import of Diosgenin

1128. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of Diosgenin has been restricted under the Limited Permissible Limit of the current Import Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Diosgenin is the basic raw material for the production of Estrone, 16-DPA, DHA Acetate, Androstenonolone and Androstenedione which are allowed for import under Open General Licence;

(c) what are the criteria for inclusion of these items under Open General Licence;

(d) what is the justification of inclusion of the above items under Open General Licence when the basis raw material, i.e. Diosgenin is covered under Limited Permissible List and the capacities for production of these intermediates are lying idle with indigenous producers; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.